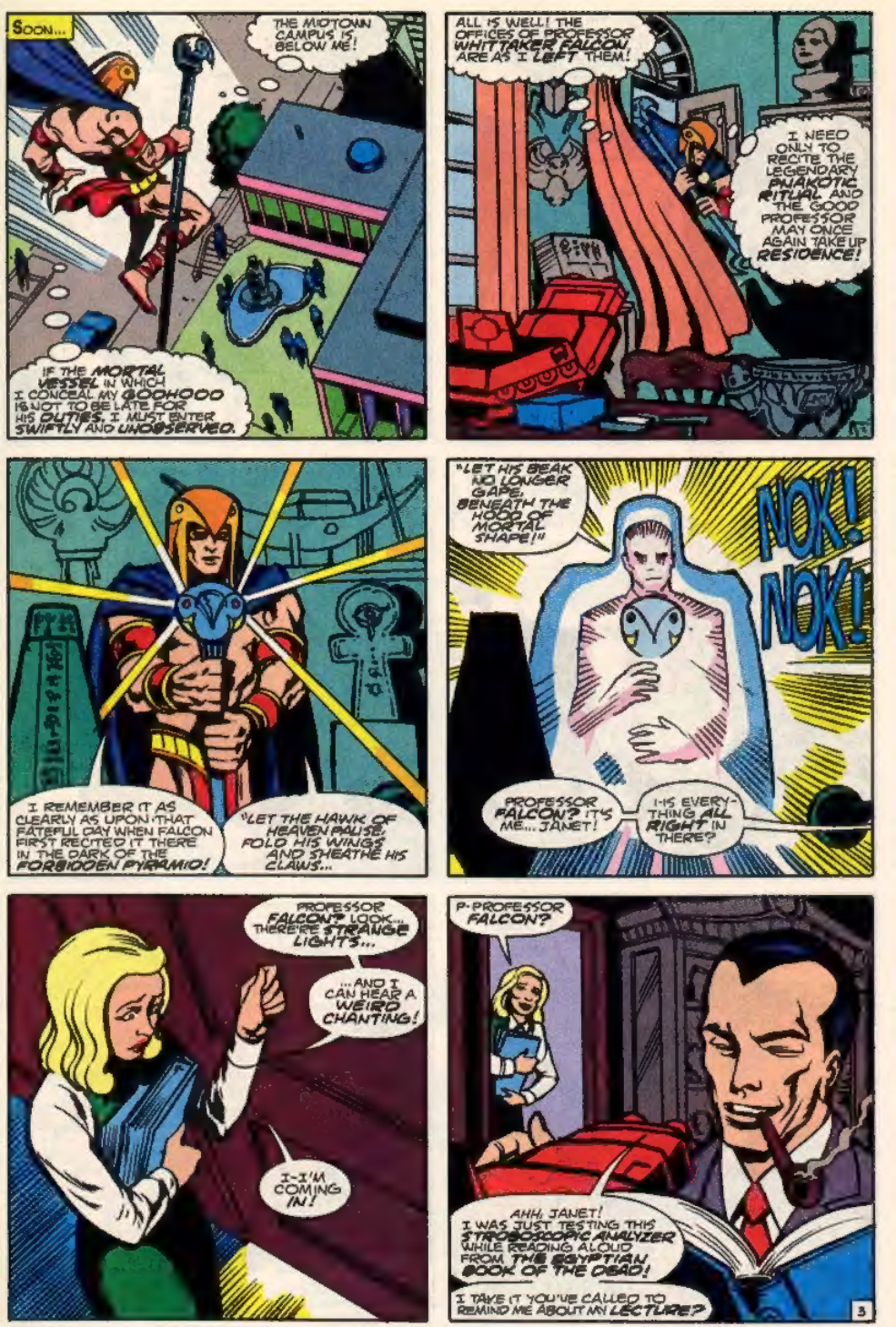
1963
image
HORUS
LORD OF LIGHT
$1.95
BOOK FIVE
OH, HORUS-- I'M SO SCARED! DON'T LET THOSE MONSTERS GET ME!
BY HELIOPOLIS, HOW CAN I PROTECT GREAT RA FROM THESE NIGHT DEMONS WHEN I'M BURDENED WITH A MORTAL STOWAWAY?
12 HOURS TO DAWN!

HORUS, LORD OF LIGHT!
RRRRAARRRGHH! TERMAGANT KILL YOU, SUN GOD! YOU MOCK TERMAGANT! SHACKLE TERMAGANT'S BROTHER, TYPHON!* NOW! TERMAGANT MAKE YOU DEAD!
YOU LONE SUN, LITTLE GOD? HNNUURRGH! THEN LOOK LAST UPON IT! SOON, YOU DEAD! DEAD IS DARK! SEE SUN NEVER-MORE!
TWELVE HOURS TO DAWN!
SAND-BLASTED SCRIPT BY AFFABLE AL MOORE
RAPIRUS-PENCILLED BY ROARIN' RICK VEITCH
SPHINX-LIKE INKS BY JAUNTY JOHNNY TOLLEGEN
HELPFUL HIEROGLYPHICS BY JOLTIN' JOHN WORKMAN
CELESTIAL COLORS BY MUSTY MARVIN KILROY
* SEE HORUS #04, "IN THE GRASP OF THE BROTHERS GRIM!" --ANTIQUARIAN AL.
1

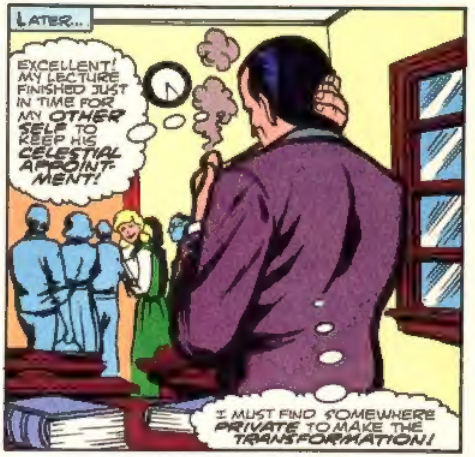
VILE CREATURE, KNOW THIS: THE SON OF ISIS AND OSIRIS DOES NOT FEAR THE WESTERN LANDS OF DEATH! THEY ARE MY FATHER'S KINGDOM!
NOR DO I FEAR THAT YOU SHALL HIDE THE SUN FROM ME!
FOR DOES THE ROYAL BLOOD-LINE OF THE SUN NOT FLOW WITHIN MY VEINS? DO I NOT HOLD THE SOLAR STAFF?
BASE MONSTER, SPEAK NOT TO ME OF THE SUN...
OOAAAA ARRRGHH!
...FOR HE AND I ARE OF ONE KIN! HE IS THE POWER FROM WHICH ALL LIFE IS SPRUNG! THE POWER THAT WITHERS FORESTS DOWN TO DESERTS!
KRA KOOM!
THE POWER THAT IS MY BIRTHRIGHT!
THERE! IT IS DONE!
THE MUTANT BEAST IS SUN-STRUCK BY MY SOLAR STAFF? PROVIDE A SLEEPING DRAUGHT FOR WHEN ITS SPELL WEARS OFF, THEN CHAIN HIM WITH HIS BROTHER!
I AM NEEDED ELSEWHERE! FAREWELL, MORTALS!
BEGORRAH! NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A SUPREME BEING, TO BE SURE!
YOU HEARD HIM, BOYS! GET THIS H-BOMB-HATCHED HOB-GOBLIN BACK TO THE ULTRA-SECURITY CAGES AT THE PENITENTIARY! ...AND THIS TIME, LET'S KEEP HIM THERE!
2


SOON...
THE MIDTOWN CAMPUS IS BELOW ME!
IF THE MORTAL VESSEL IN WHICH I CONCEAL MY GODHOOD IS NOT TO BE LATE FOR HIS DUTIES, I MUST ENTER SWIFTLY AND UNOBSERVED.
ALL IS WELL! THE OFFICES OF PROFESSOR WHITTAKER FALCON, ARE AS I LEFT THEM!
I NEED ONLY TO RECITE THE LEGENDARY PHAKOTIC RITUAL AND THE GOOD PROFESSOR MAY ONCE AGAIN TAKE UP RESIDENCE!
I REMEMBER IT AS CLEARLY AS UPON THAT FATEFUL DAY WHEN FALCON FIRST RECITED IT THERE IN THE DARK OF THE FORBIDDEN PYRAMID!
"LET THE HAWK OF HEAVEN PAUSE, FOLD HIS WINGS AND SHEATHE HIS CLAWS...
"LET HIS BEAK NO LONGER GAPE, BENEATH THE HOOD OF MORTAL SHAPE!"
NOK! NOK!
PROFESSOR FALCON? IT'S ME... JANET!
I-IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT IN THERE?
PROFESSOR FALCON? LOOK... THERE'RE STRANGE LIGHTS...
...AND I CAN HEAR A WEIRD CHANTING!
I-I'M COMING IN!
P-PROFESSOR FALCON?
AHH, JANET! I WAS JUST TESTING THIS STROBOSCOPIC ANALYZER WHILE READING ALOUD FROM THE EGYPTIAN BOOK OF THE DEAD!
I TAKE IT YOU'VE CALLED TO REMIND ME ABOUT MY LECTURE?
3

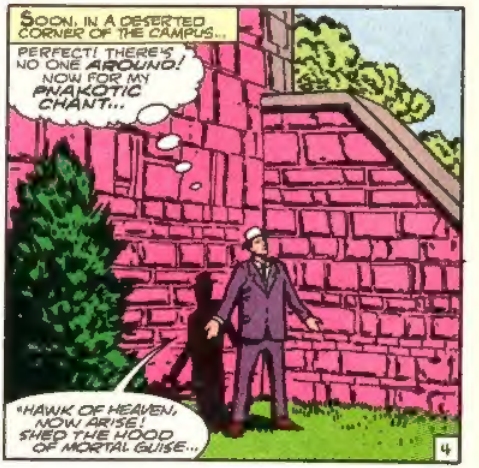
THERE WAS REALLY NO NEED! AS YOU SEE, I'M READY TO DEPART FOR IT RIGHT NOW!
OH, IT'S JUST I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT SO MUCH, WHAT WITH MY ASSIGNMENT BEING ABOUT EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGY AND EVERYTHING!

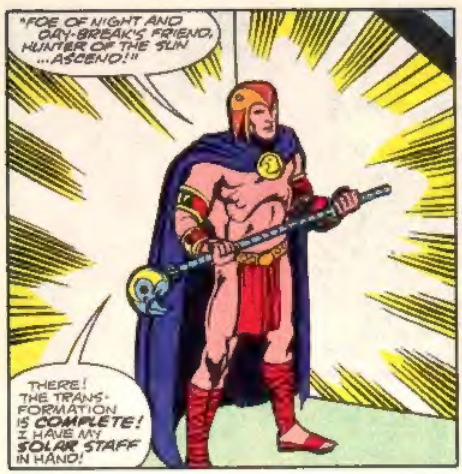
I MEAN, IT'S ALL SO INTERESTING! DID ANCIENT EGYPTIANS REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE SUN WAS A GREAT BARGE CROSSING THE SKY?
YES, MISS JONES, IN A WAY, THEY DID! NOW, WHILE YOUR EAGERNESS IS COMMENDABLE...

...YOU MUST WAIT TO HEAR THE REMAINDER OF MY LECTURE, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE CLASS!
SIGH! I KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, GETTING YOU ALL TO MYSELF! OH, WELL...
GO TO IT, PROFESSOR!

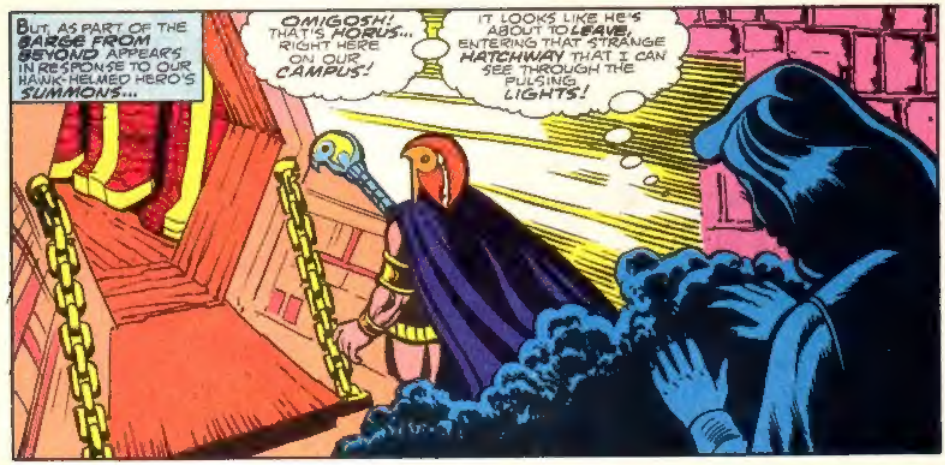

LATER...
EXCELLENT! MY LECTURE FINISHED JUST IN TIME FOR MY OTHER SELF TO KEEP HIS CELESTIAL APPOINTMENT!
I MUST FIND SOMEWHERE PRIVATE TO MAKE THE TRANSFORMATION!

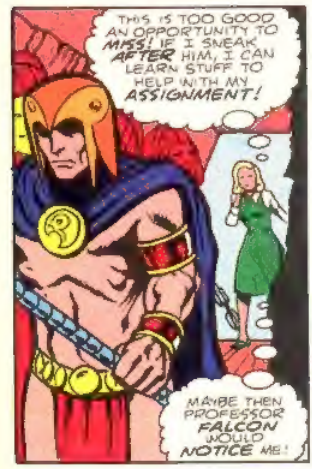
HEY, RICKY! Y'SEE WHERE THE FURY FOUGHT THIS DINOSAUR? I WISH I'D SEEN IT!
FORGET IT, RED! YOU'RE NOT LIKELY TO SEE ANY SUPER-HEROES ON THIS CAMPUS!
HEH! IF ONLY THOSE KIDS KNEW!
DAILY NEWS
FURY FIGHTS DINOS!

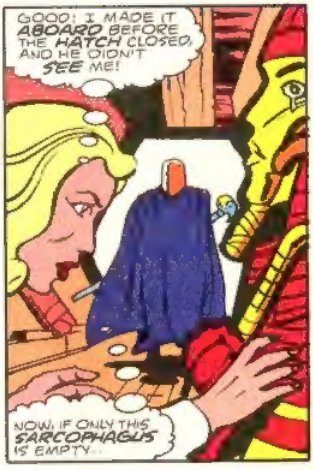

SOON, IN A DESERTED CORNER OF THE CAMPUS...
PERFECT! THERE'S NO ONE AROUND! NOW FOR MY PHAKOTIC CHANT...
"HAWK OF HEAVEN, NOW ARISE! SHED THE HOOD OF MORTAL GUISE...

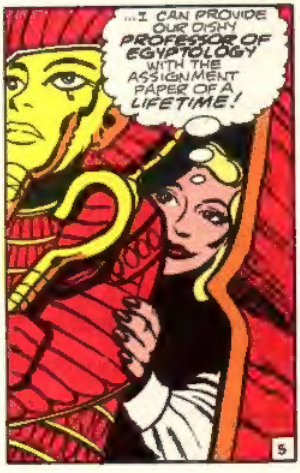

"FOE OF NIGHT AND DAY-BREAK'S FRIEND, HUNTER OF THE SUN ...ASCEND!!"
THERE! THE TRANS-FORMATION IS COMPLETE! I HAVE MY SOLAR STAFF IN HAND!

TO KEEP MY APPOINTMENT UPON THE BARGE OF A MILLION YEARS, I MUST USE MY STAFF TO SUMMON PART OF THAT VESSEL INTO THIS DIMENSION!


BUT, AS PART OF THE BARGE FROM BEYOND APPEARS IN RESPONSE TO OUR HAWK-HELMED HERO'S SUMMONS...
OMIGOSH! THAT'S HORUS... RIGHT HERE ON OUR CAMPUS!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO LEAVE, ENTERING THAT STRANGE HATCHWAY THAT I CAN SEE THROUGH THE PULSING LIGHTS!


THIS IS TOO GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MISS! IF I SNEAK AFTER HIM, I CAN LEARN STUFF TO HELP WITH MY ASSIGNMENT!
MAYBE THEN PROFESSOR FALCON WOULD NOTICE ME!


GOOD! I MADE IT ABOARD BEFORE THE HATCH CLOSED, AND HE DIDN'T SEE ME!
NOW, IF ONLY THIS SARCOPHAGUS IS EMPTY...


...I CAN PROVIDE OUR DISHY PROFESSOR OF EGYPTOLOGY WITH THE ASSIGNMENT PAPER OF A LIFETIME!
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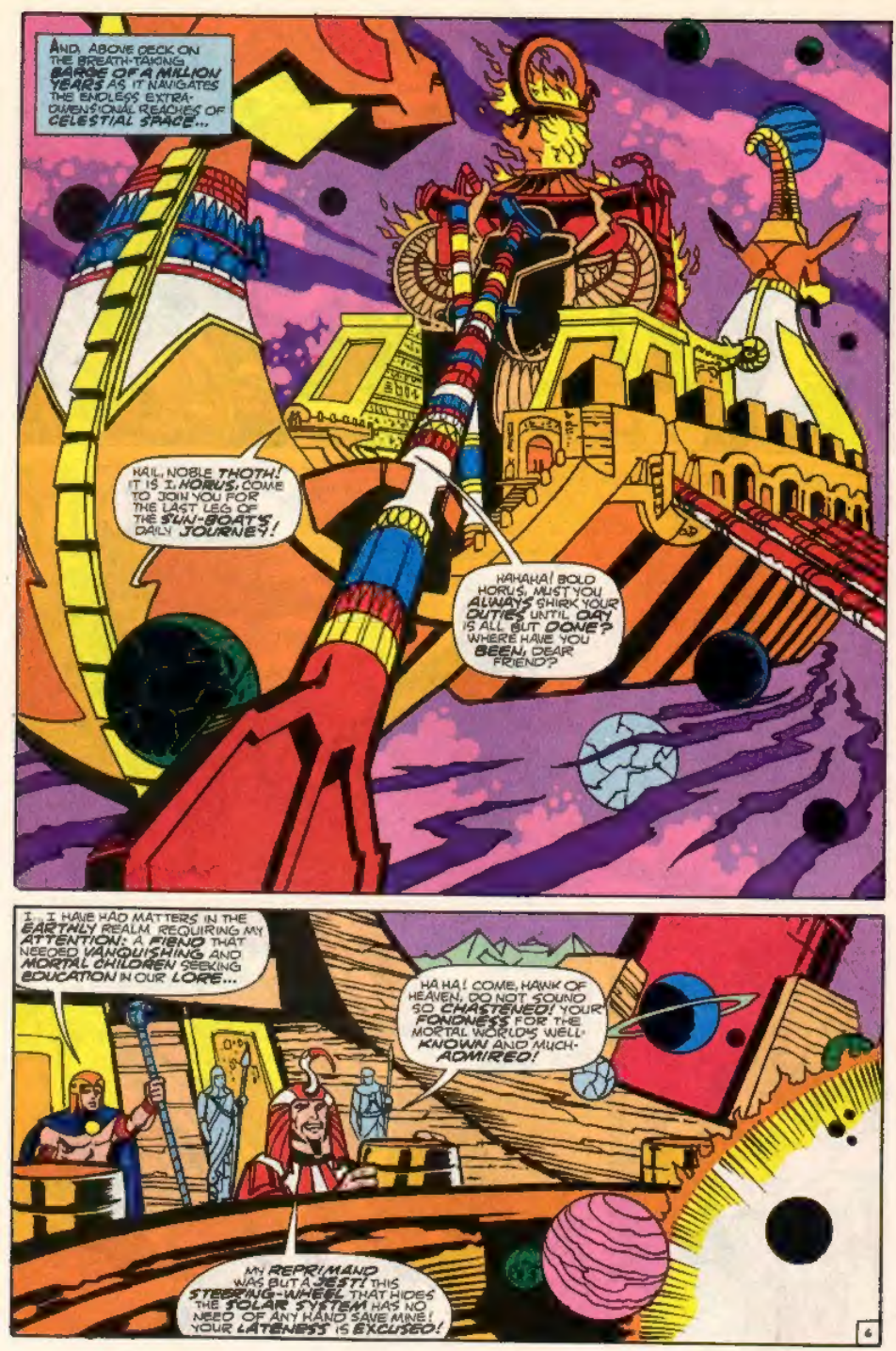
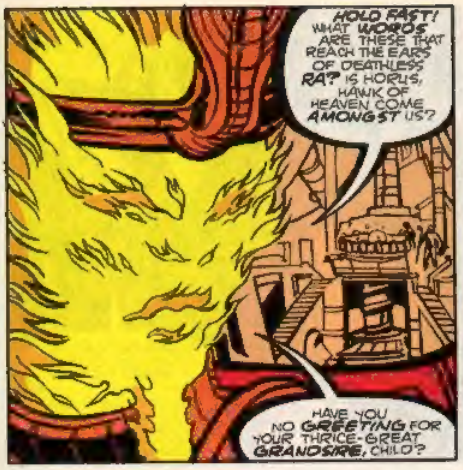
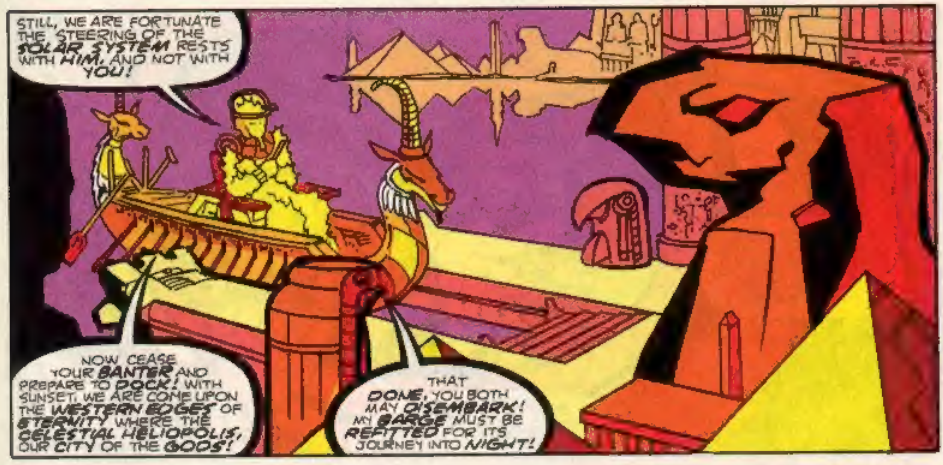

AND ABOVE DECK ON THE BREATH-TAKING BARGE OF A MILLION YEARS AS IT NAVIGATES THE ENDLESS EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL REACHES OF CELESTIAL SPACE...
HAIL, NOBLE THOTH! IT IS I, HORUS, COME TO JOIN YOU FOR THE LAST LEG OF THE SUN-BOAT'S DAILY JOURNEY!
HAHAHA! BOLD HORUS, MUST YOU ALWAYS SHIRK YOUR DUTIES UNTIL DAY IS ALL BUT DONE? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, DEAR FRIEND?
I... I HAVE HAD MATTERS IN THE EARTHLY REALM REQUIRING MY ATTENTION: A FIEND THAT NEEDED VANQUISHING AND MORTAL CHILDREN SEEKING EDUCATION IN OUR LORE...
HA HA! COME, HAWK OF HEAVEN, DO NOT SOUND SO CHASTENED! YOUR FONDNESS FOR THE MORTAL WORLDS WELL-KNOWN AND MUCH-ADMIRED!
MY REPRIMAND WAS BUT A JEST! THIS STEERING-WHEEL THAT HIDES THE SOLAR SYSTEM HAS NO NEED OF ANY HAND SAVE MINE! YOUR LATENESS IS EXCUSED!


HOLD FAST! WHAT WORDS ARE THESE THAT REACH THE EARS OF DEATHLESS RA? IS HORUS, HAWK OF HEAVEN COME AMONGST US?
HAVE YOU NO GREETING FOR YOUR THRICE-GREAT GRANDSIRE, CHILD?

YOUR PARDON, SELF-CREATED ONE! THE GOD OF WORDS AND WISDOM DID MAKE SPORT WITH ME, DELAYING MY OBEISANCES!
HA HA! HE IS A WICKED ONE, THAT THOTH, AND HE HAS A CLEVER TONGUE!


STILL, WE ARE FORTUNATE THE STEERING OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM RESTS WITH HIM, AND NOT WITH YOU!
NOW CEASE YOUR BANTER AND PREPARE TO DOCK! WITH SUNSET, WE ARE COME UPON THE WESTERN EDGES OF ETERNITY WHERE THE CELESTIAL HELIOPOLIS, OUR CITY OF THE GODS!
THAT DONE, YOU BOTH MAY DISEMBARK! MY BARGE MUST BE REFITTED FOR ITS JOURNEY INTO NIGHT!

AHH, IT IS GOOD TO BE AGROUND! COME JOIN ME IN THE LIBRARY OF EVERYTHING TO LIST EACH CHILD, KINDRED, CONTINENT, AND PLANET BIRTHED TODAY!
MY THANKS, BUT I WOULD SOONEST BE ALONE...
TO BROOD, SWEET NEPHEW?

SET! VILE GOD OF STORM AND TEMPEST, THERE IS MURDER YET UPON YOUR BREATH! WHAT VILLAINY ARE YOU ABOUT, BENEATH THAT SWINISH HELM?
FOR SHAME, GOOD HORUS! IS THIS ANY MANNER FIT TO GREET YOUR FATHER'S BROTHER?

FIEND! YOU ARE MY FATHER'S SLAYER!
HOLD FAST, MY FRIEND! THE LORD OF STORMS STRIVES TO PROVOKE YOU TO A BRAWL!
HA! WHY BOTHER WITH A BRAWL, WHEN ITS OUTCOME IS CERTAIN?
BRASH GODLING, DO YOU THINK YOURSELF A MATCH FOR ME?
A MATCH FOR ONE WHO CHANGES SHAPE AS EASILY AS DO THE BLACK AND ROLLING THUNDER-HEADS?
SHALL I BECOME A WAVE OF BLOOD? A RAIN OF KNIVES? A SERPENT VAST ENOUGH TO CRUSH YOUR LIFE AWAY BETWEEN ITS COILS?
BE WHAT YOU WILL, USURPER! IN WHATEVER FORM YOU HIDE, MY GAZE SHALL SEEK YOU OUT AND SHRIVEL YOU TO SAND!
BE STILL! THERE SHALL BE NO RAISED VOICES HERE, UPON THE SACRED WHARFS OF DUSK...
...NOT WHILE THE GODDESS ISIS IS AT HAND!
MOTHER! I... I DID NOT SEE YOU THERE!
AHH... DEAREST SISTER ISIS, EAGER TO PROTECT HER WHELP!
MY SON NEEDS NO PROTECTION, BROTHER SET...
...YET I WILL NOT HAVE QUARRELING WHILE GREAT RA'S BARGE IS FITTED WITH THE SERPENT PROW FOR ITS DARK VOYAGE!
GO ON YOUR SEPARATE WAYS! SURELY YOU BOTH HAVE MATTERS TO ATTEND?
OH, ASSUREDLY, GREAT ISIS! MOST ASSUREDLY!
GOOD MORROW, HORUS! WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!
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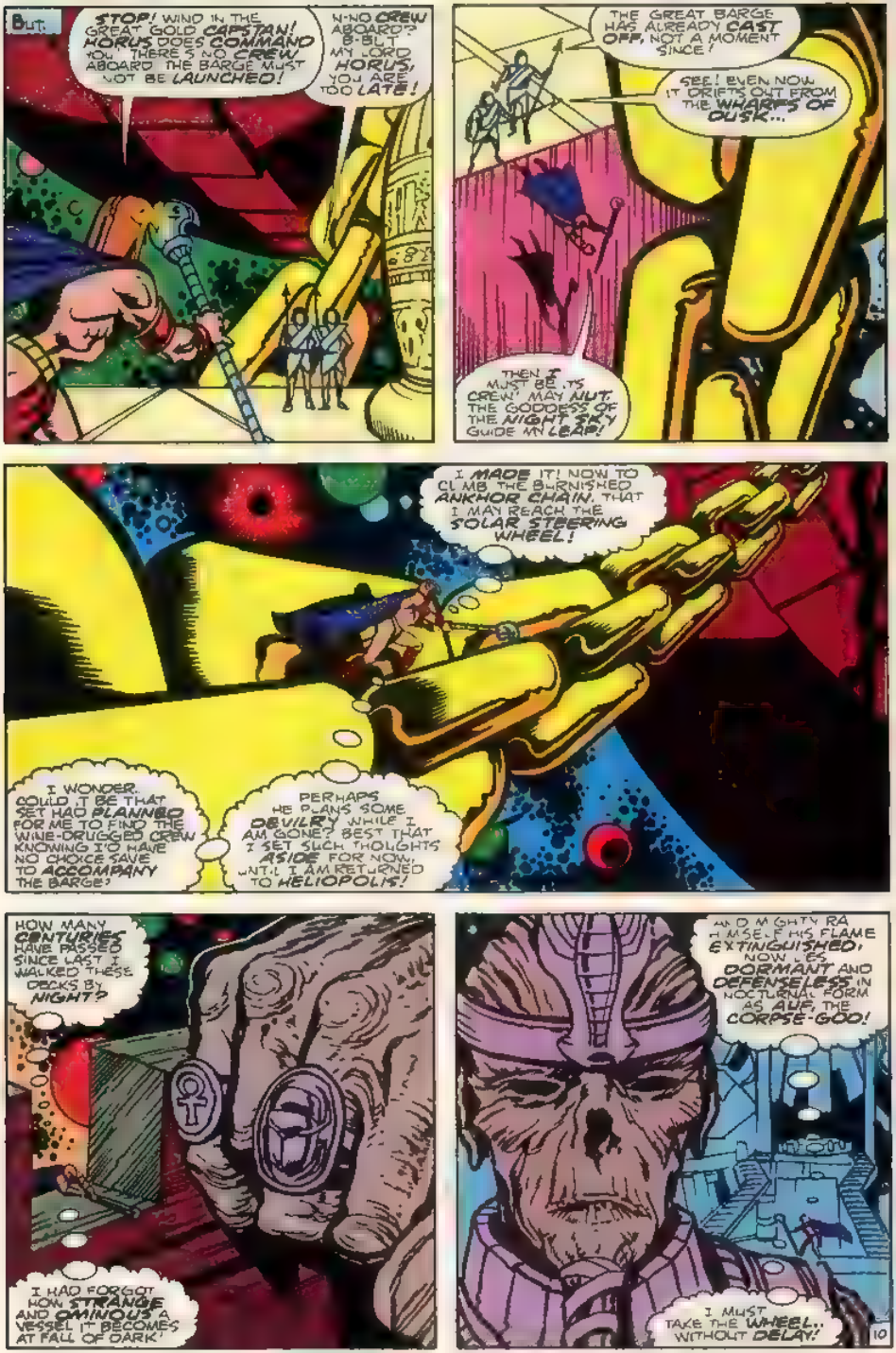
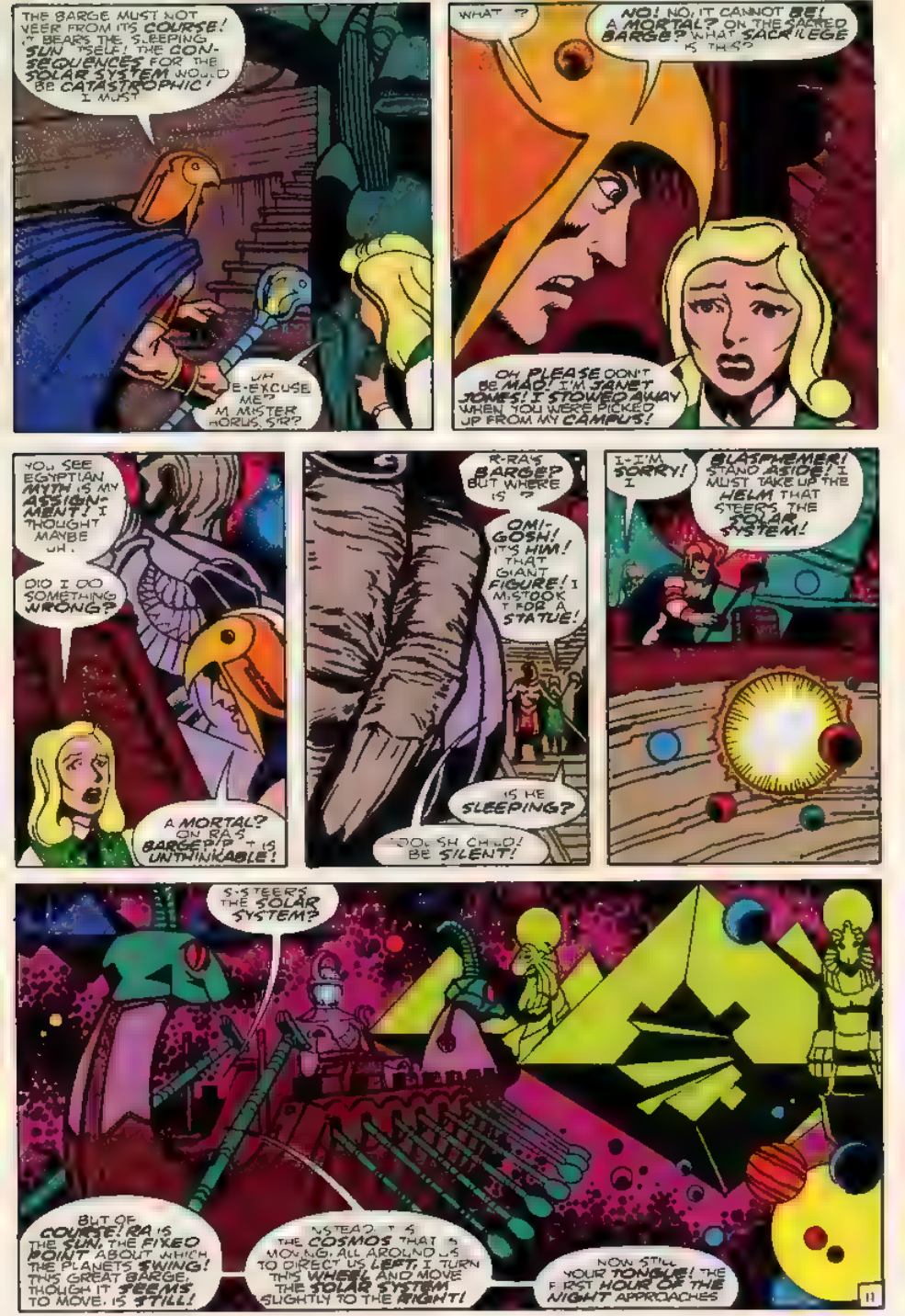
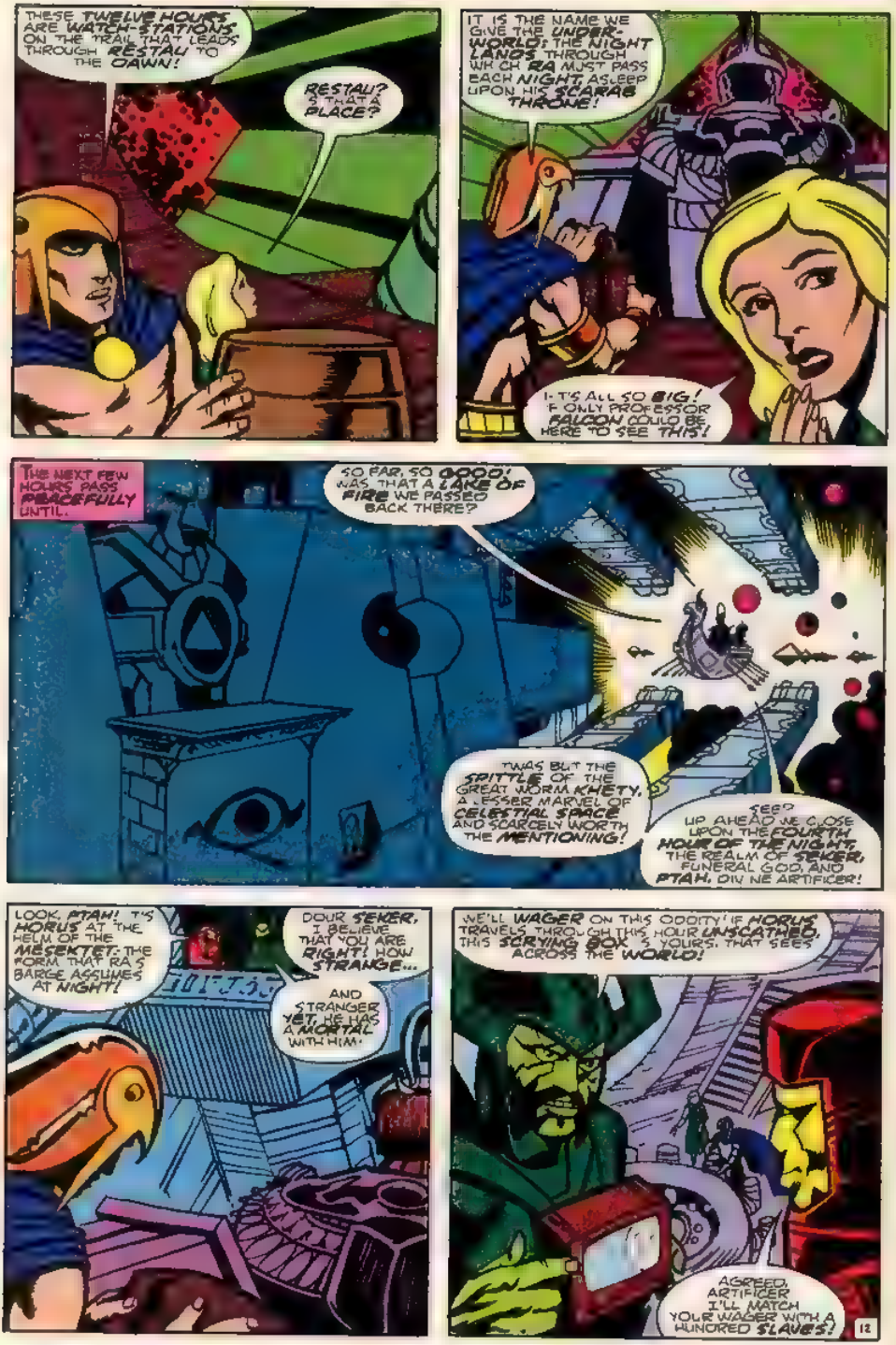
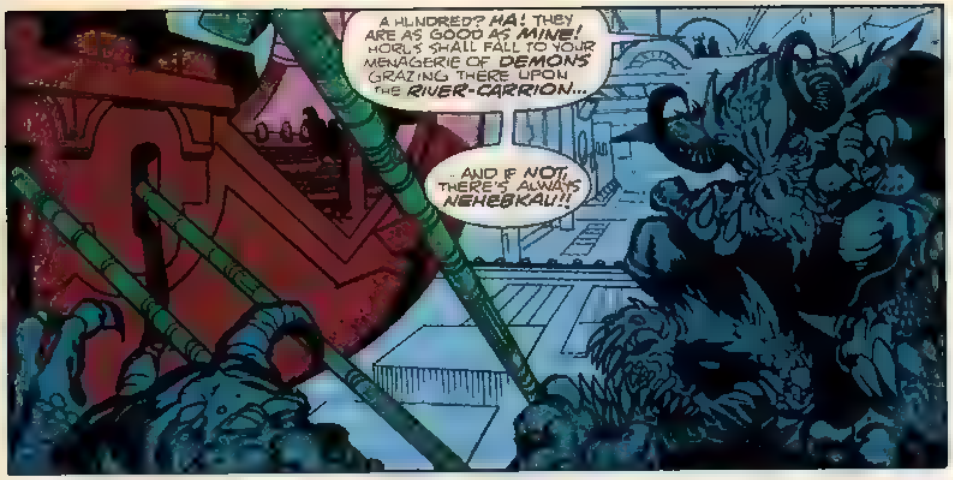
CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

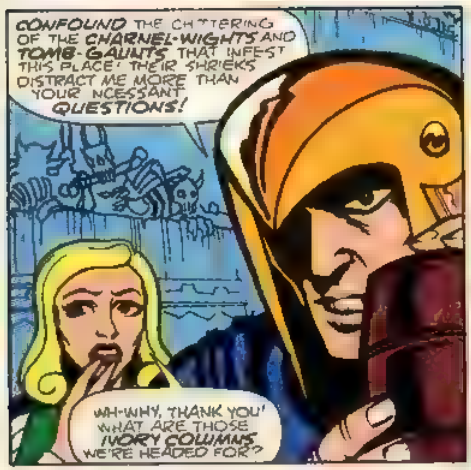
AND SOON...
ARE YOU RESOLVED YOU WILL NOT JOIN ME IN THE LIBRARY, DEAR FRIEND? TOGETHER, WE MAY CATALOG THE DREAMS OF OWLS OR COUNT RARE PARTICLES!
I MUST DECLINE! FAREWELL, GOOD THOTH! ENJOY YOUR STUDIES!
SURELY SET IS RIGHT! DO I NOT SHUN MY FRIENDS TO BROOD ALONE, AMONGST THE STATUES OF DEAD KINGS?
DEAD LIKE MY FATHER, GREAT OSIRIS, SLAUGHTERED BY HIS BROTHER'S TREACHERY!
"TRICKING MY FATHER INTO ENTERING A COFFIN, SET SEALED BOTH THE CASKET AND HIS BROTHER'S FATE!
"...BUT FAITHFUL ISIS FOUND AND RE-ASSEMBLED HER BELOVED BROTHER, THAT BY MAGIC SHE MIGHT COME TO BEAR HIS CHILD! THUS WAS I BORN AND RAISED--"
"HE CUT THE BODY INTO FOURTEEN PARTS AND SCATTERED THEM..."
...ONLY TO LIVE SINCE THEN BENEATH THE SHADOW OF MY FATHER'S DEATH AND WATCH THE SCHEMINGS OF HIS MURDERER!
BUT HOLD! WHAT'S THIS?!
UNNNGH...
IT IS UNQUIET THE OPENER OF THE WAY!
SPEAK, WOLF-HELMED ONE! YOU ARE THE NIGHT-CREW THAT GUIDES RA THROUGH DARKNESS! WHY ARE YOU NOT NOW ABOARD HIS BARGE?
SET... HAVE GAVE US WINE...
BY ALL THE SUNS! THE LORD OF SQUALL AND THUNDERSTORM HAS DRUGGED THE CREW SO THAT GREAT RA SAILS UNPROTECTED INTO NIGHT!
I MUST MAKE HASTE AND STAY THE BARGE ERE IT SETS FORTH!
9

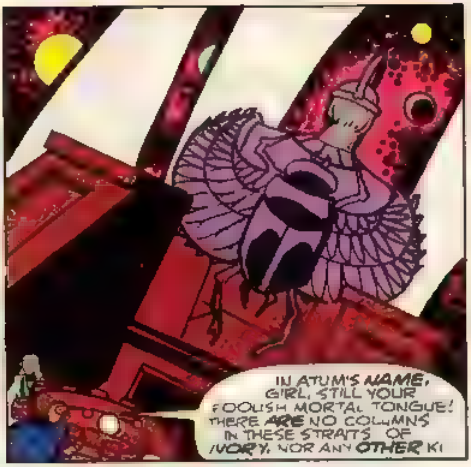

But...
STOP! WIND IN THE GREAT GOLD CAPSTAN! HORUS DOES COMMAND YOU. THERE'S NO CREW ABOARD THE BARGE MUST NOT BE LAUNCHED!
N-NO CREW ABOARD? B-BUT MY LORD HORUS, YOU ARE TOO LATE!
THE GREAT BARGE HAS ALREADY CAST OFF, NOT A MOMENT SINCE!
SEE! EVEN NOW IT DRIFTS OUT FROM THE WHARFS OF DUSK...
THEN I MUST BE ITS CREW! MAY NUT, THE GODDESS OF THE NIGHT SKY GUIDE MY LEAP!
I MADE IT! NOW TO CLIMB THE BURNISHED ANKHOR CHAIN, THAT I MAY REACH THE SOLAR STEERING WHEEL!
I WONDER. COULD IT BE THAT SET HAD PLANNED FOR ME TO FIND THE WINE-DRUGGED CREW KNOWING I'D HAVE NO CHOICE SAVE TO ACCOMPANY THE BARGE?
PERHAPS HE PLANS SOME DEVILRY WHILE I AM GONE? BEST THAT I SET SUCH THOUGHTS ASIDE FOR NOW, UNTIL I AM RETURNED TO HELIOPOLIS!
HOW MANY CENTURIES HAVE PASSED SINCE LAST I WALKED THESE DECKS BY NIGHT?
I HAD FORGOT HOW STRANGE AND OMINOUS A VESSEL IT BECOMES AT FALL OF DARK!
AND MIGHTY RA HIMSELF HIS FLAME EXTINGUISHED, NOW LIES DORMANT AND DEFENSELESS IN NOCTURNAL FORM AS ALU, THE CORPSE-GOO!
I MUST TAKE THE WHEEL... WITHOUT DELAY!
10

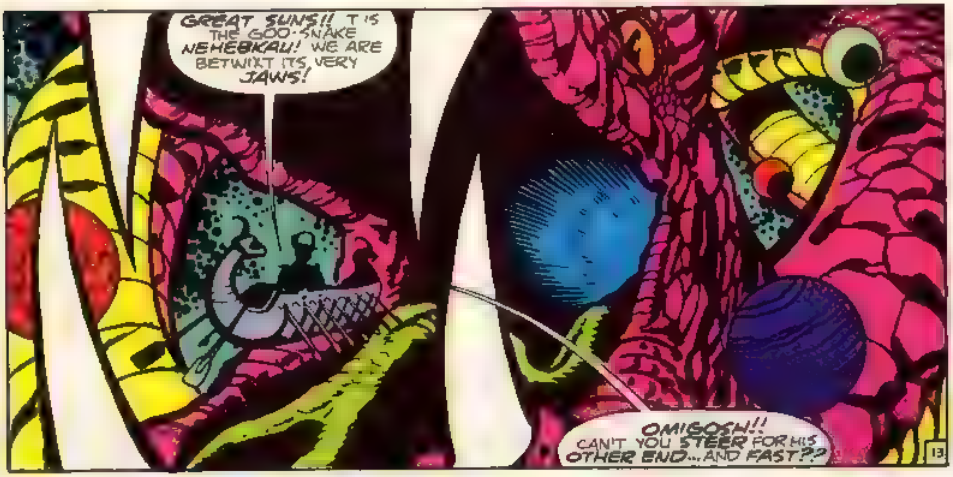

THE BARGE MUST NOT VEER FROM ITS COURSE! IT BEARS THE SLEEPING SUN ITSELF! THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SOLAR SYSTEM WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC! I MUST
UH E-EXCUSE ME? M'MISTER HORUS, SIR?
WHAT ?
NO! NO, IT CANNOT BE! A MORTAL? ON THE SACRED BARGE? WHAT SACRILEGE IS THIS?
OH PLEASE DON'T BE MAD! I'M JANET JONES! I STOWED AWAY WHEN YOU WERE PICKED UP FROM MY CAMPUS!
YOU SEE EGYPTIAN MYTH IS MY ASSIGNMENT! I THOUGHT MAYBE UH.
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
A MORTAL? ON RA'S BARGE?! IT IS UNTHINKABLE!
R-RA'S BARGE? BUT WHERE IS ?
OMI-GOSH! IT'S HIM! THAT GIANT FIGURE! I MISTOOK IT FOR A STATUE!
IS HE SLEEPING?
SHH. SH CHILD! BE SILENT!
I-I'M SORRY! I
BLASPHEMER! STAND ASIDE! I MUST TAKE UP THE HELM THAT STEERS THE SOLAR SYSTEM!
S-STEER THE SOLAR SYSTEM?
BUT OF COURSE! RA IS THE SUN, THE FIXED POINT ABOUT WHICH THE PLANETS SWING! THIS GREAT BARGE, THOUGH IT SEEMS TO MOVE, IS STILL!
INSTEAD, IT IS THE COSMOS THAT IS MOVING ALL AROUND US TO DIRECT US LEFT, I TURN THIS WHEEL AND MOVE THE SOLAR SYSTEM SLIGHTLY TO THE RIGHT!
NOW STILL YOUR TONGUE! THE FIRST HOUR OF THE NIGHT APPROACHES
11

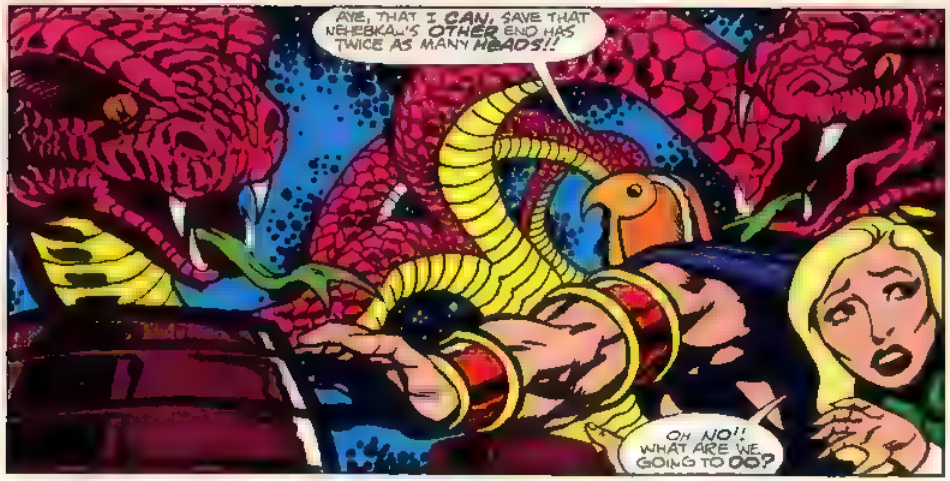

THESE TWELVE HOURS ARE WATCH-STATIONS ON THE TRAIL THAT LEADS THROUGH RESTAU TO THE DAWN!
RESTAU? WHAT A PLACE?
IT IS THE NAME WE GIVE THE UNDER-WORLD; THE NIGHT LANDS THROUGH WHICH RA MUST PASS EACH NIGHT, ASLEEP UPON HIS SCARAB THRONE!
I- IT'S ALL SO BIG! IF ONLY PROFESSOR FALCON COULD BE HERE TO SEE THIS!
THE NEXT FEW HOURS PASS PEACEFULLY UNTIL...
SO FAR, SO GOOD! WAS THAT A LAKE OF FIRE WE PASSED BACK THERE?
'TWAS BUT THE SPITTLE OF THE GREAT WORM KHETY, A LESSER MARVEL OF CELESTIAL SPACE AND SCARCELY WORTH THE MENTIONING!
SEE? UP AHEAD WE CLOSE UPON THE FOURTH HOUR OF THE NIGHT, THE REALM OF SEKER, FUNERAL GOD, AND PTAH, DIV NE ARTIFICER!
LOOK, PTAH! 'TIS HORUS AT THE HELM OF THE MESEKTET- THE FORM THAT RA'S BARGE ASSUMES AT NIGHT!
DOUR SEKER, I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE RIGHT! HOW STRANGE...
AND STRANGER YET, HE HAS A MORTAL WITH HIM.
WE'LL WAGER ON THIS ODDITY! IF HORUS TRAVELS THROUGH THIS HOUR UNSCATHED, THIS SCRYING BOX 'S YOURS. THAT SEES ACROSS THE WORLD!
AGREED, ARTIFICER. I'LL MATCH YOUR WAGER WITH A HUNDRED SLAVES!
12


A HUNDRED? HA! THEY ARE AS GOOD AS MINE! HORLS SHALL FALL TO YOUR MENAGERIE OF DEMONS GRAZING THERE UPON THE RIVER-CARRION...
...AND IF NOT, THERE'S ALWAYS NEHEBKAU!!


CONFOUND THE CHITTERING OF THE CHARNEL-WIGHTS AND TOMB-GAUNTS THAT INFEST THIS PLACE! THEIR SHRIEKS DISTRACT ME MORE THAN YOUR INCESSANT QUESTIONS!
WH-WHY, THANK YOU! WHAT ARE THOSE IVORY COLUMNS WE'RE HEADED FOR?


IN ATUM'S NAME, GIRL, STILL YOUR FOOLISH MORTAL TONGUE! THERE ARE NO COLUMNS IN THESE STRAITS OF IVORY, NOR ANY OTHER KI

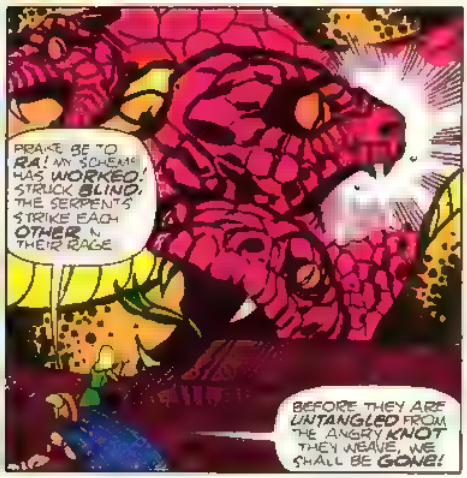

GREAT SUNS!! T'IS THE GOO-SNAKE NEHEBKAU! WE ARE BETWIXT ITS VERY JAWS!
OMIGOSH!! CAN'T YOU STEER FOR HIS OTHER END...AND FAST?!?


AYE, THAT I CAN, SAVE THAT NEHEBKAU'S OTHER END HAS TWICE AS MANY HEADS!!
OH NO!! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

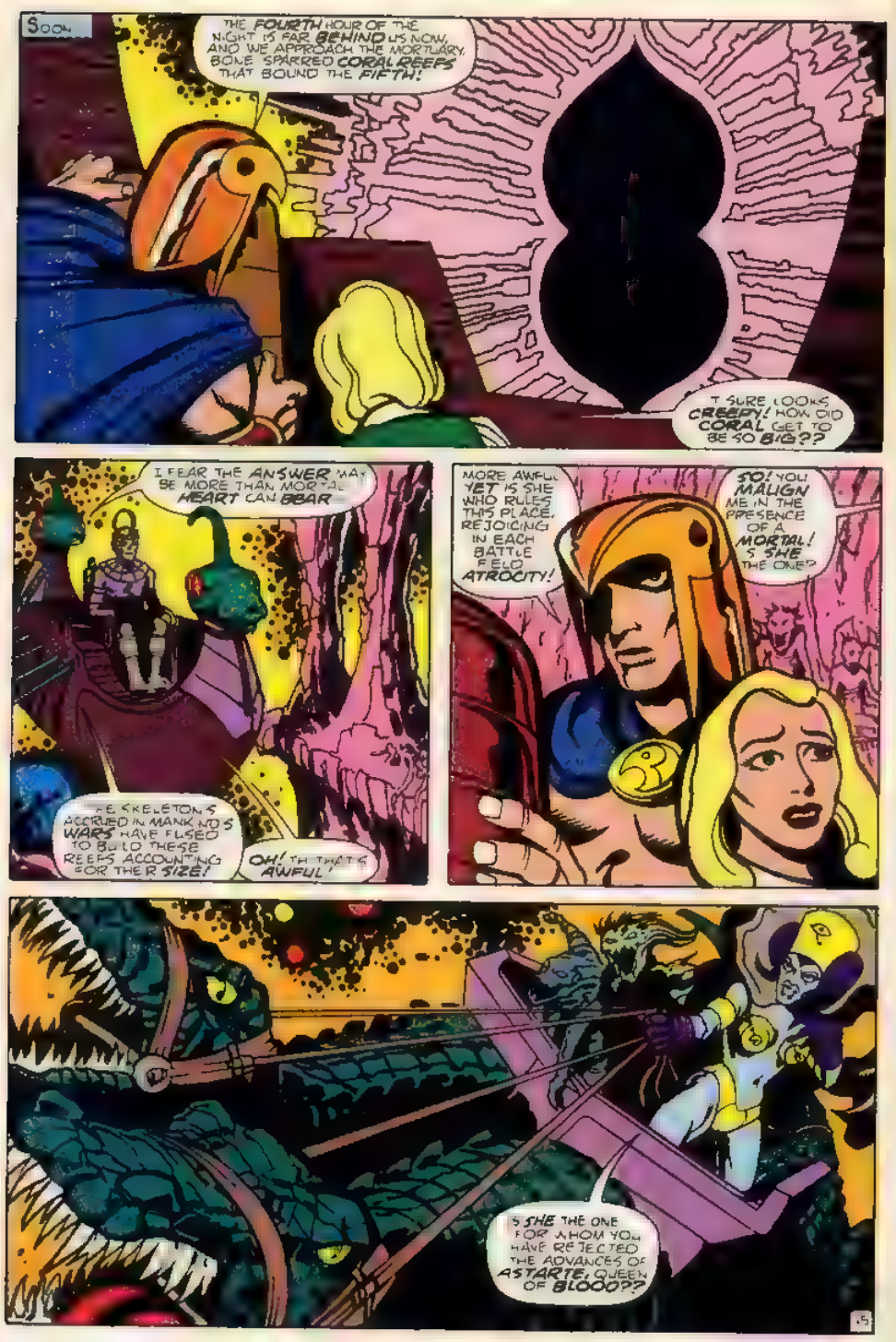
BACK, TOWARDS NEHEBKAU'S SOLITARY HEAD!
WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO WHEN THE OTHER TWO HEADS ARE STILL COMING AFTER

SEE HOW THE HEADS COMPETE, THE TWINS BOTH LUNGING AS THEIR BROTHER SEEMS TO SWALLOW
COVER YOUR EYES, CHILD

WHILE MY SOLAR STAFF BURNS WITH THE AWESOME BRILLIANCE OF A THOUSAND SUNS!!
OOOH!


PRAISE BE TO RA! MY SCHEME HAS WORKED! STRUCK BLIND, THE SERPENTS STRIKE EACH OTHER IN THEIR RAGE
BEFORE THEY ARE UNTANGLED FROM THE ANGRY KNOT THEY WEAVE, WE SHALL BE GONE!

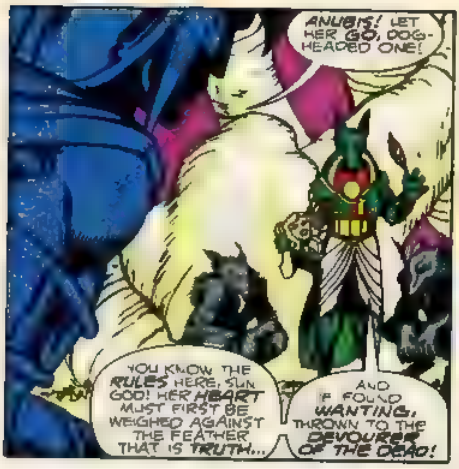
WELL PTAH? GREAT HORUS UNSCATHED! WHERE IS MY SCRYING BOX?
HERE SEKER, TAKE IT
THOUGH I'D SOONER FACE NEHEBKAU THAN MY DARLING CONSORT SEKHMET WHEN SHE FINDS I'VE LOST HER FAVORITE DEVICE!
14

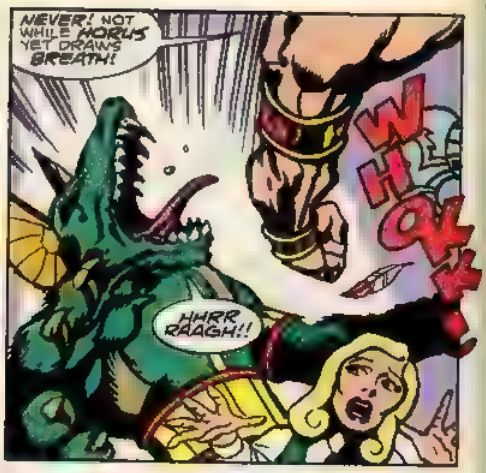

SOON...
THE FOURTH HOUR OF THE NIGHT IS FAR BEHIND US NOW, AND WE APPROACH THE MORTUARY, BONE SPARRED CORAL REEFS THAT BOUND THE FIFTH!
T SURE LOOKS CREEPY! HOW DID CORAL GET TO BE SO BIG??
I FEAR THE ANSWER MAY BE MORE THAN MORTAL HEART CAN BEAR
E SKELETONS ACCRUED IN MANKIND'S WARS HAVE FUSED TO BUILD THESE REEFS ACCOUNTING FOR THEIR SIZE!
OH! TH THAT'S AWFUL!
MORE AWFUL YET IS SHE WHO RULES THIS PLACE, REJOICING IN EACH BATTLE FELD ATROCITY!
SO! YOU MALIGN ME IN THE PRESENCE OF A MORTAL! S SHE THE ONE?
S SHE THE ONE FOR WHOM YOU HAVE REJECTED THE ADVANCES OF ASTARTE, QUEEN OF BLOOD??

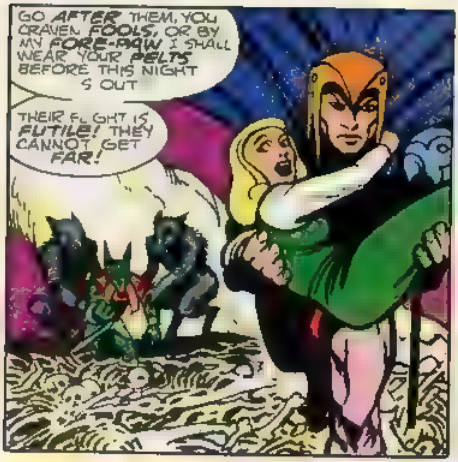
I AM NOT LIGHTLY CAST ASIDE, HAWK OF THE SUN! SEE EVEN NOW MY SHE-FIENDS MOUNT YOUR ANKHOR CHAIN AND MAKE TO BOARD!
JEEPERS! SHE'S NOT KIDDING! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE! WE CANNOT LET ASTARTE'S NECRO-NYMPHS DEFILE THE SACRED BARGE! WHILE I REPEL THEM, YOU MUST STEER!
STEER THE WHO E SOLAR SYSTEM? ME?
ASTARTE HAS DESPISED ME SINCE I SPURNED HER*
I MUST MAKE HASTE, LEST HER LUST FOR REVENGE SHOULD THREATEN NOBLE RA HIMSELF.
*SEE HORUS #97: "THE MARRIAGE OF HORUS!" --ANKH-ADOLEO AL.
FOCUSSING THE SEARING GAZE OF MY SOLAR STAFF, I CAN CUT THROUGH THE SOLID GOLD OF THE ANKHOR CHAIN AS IF IT WERE BUTTER!
THERE! IT IS DONE!
NOW MAY OSIRIS GRANT ME STRENGTH THAT I MAY LIFT ITS MASSIVE GLEAMING WEIGHT..
ONE HALF OF WHICH MIGHT BUY A CONTINENT!
UNNNG HHHH!
16

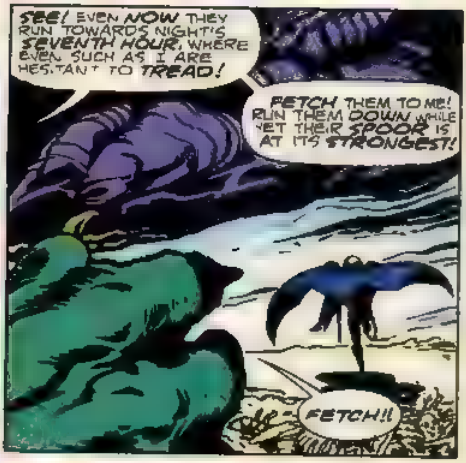
THERE! IT'S DONE! BEGONE, FOUL HARR DANS I CAST YOU DEEP INTO THE TRACKLESS REACHES OF ETERNITY!
AAEEE !AAAA GHH!!
SKREEE EEEK!!
THEY'RE GONE! NOW SHALL THEIR MONARCH WRITHE BENEATH THE SHRIVELLING GAZE OF HORUS!!
'FOOL! 'TIS NOT YOUR GAZE I'D SOONEST WRITHE BENEATH
COME, THEN AND DIE BETWEEN THE JEWELLED JAWS OF MY CHARIOT-BEASTS!!
GNAAARRRR!!
GRRRAAAGH!!
THESE CLUMSY, GEM ENCUMBERED BRUTES ARE NO MATCH FOR MY SOLAR STAFF! WHY, AS A CHILD, I WRESTLED WITH THEIR KIND UPON THE RADIANT NILE!!!
NOTHING CAN KEEP ME FROM YOU, DEMONESS!"
NOTHING, YOU SAY? NOT EVEN THE APPROACHING EXECUTION OF THE MORTAL WHELP YOU SPURNED ME FOR??
YOU SPEAK OF JANET? WHAT NEW TRICKERY IS THIS??
NO TRICKERY DEAR HORUS! SEE...LEFT TO HER OWN DEVICES, SHE HAS STEERED THE BARGE INTO THE SIXTH HOUR OF THE NIGHT REALM OF ANUBIS...
.. JUDGE OF ALL THE DEAD!!
17

GREAT SUNS!! NO MORTAL EYES WERE MEANT TO LOOK UPON THE GRIM ASSIZES OF
THE JACKAL-HEADED ONE!
I MUST ASSIST HER LEST HER LIFE AND SANITY BE FORFEIT!!
HA HA HA HA HA!
THOUGH POISON-TONGUED ASTARTE MISCONSTRUES MY FEELINGS FOR THIS HUMAN CHILD. I CANNOT LET HER COME TO HARM!
HORUS!! HELP ME! WHERE ARE YOU, HORUS??
I AM TOO LATE! THE WERE-DOG SERVANTS OF ANUBIS ARE ABOARD THE SACRED BARGE WITH JANET IN THEIR CLUTCHES!
TH-THEY JUST DROPPED ON ME OUT OF NOWHERE!! SAVE ME, HORUS! PLEASE DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME!!
FEAR NOT, OH LOW BORN ONE! THE SON OF GREAT OSIRIS IS AT HAND!!
THEY'RE LEAPING FOR THE RIVER-BANK AND TAKING ME ALONG!! PLEASE HURRY, HORUS!!
HALT HALF-HUMAN CURS! 'TIS HORUS THE DIVINE WHO BIDS YOU SET THE MORTAL FREE!
THEY WILL NOT HEED YOU, SUN-GOD! THIS IS MY REALM AND YOUR LIGHT HAS NO DOMINION HERE!!
18


ANUBIS! LET HER GO, DOG-HEADED ONE!
YOU KNOW THE RULES HERE, SUN GOD! HER HEART MUST FIRST BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE FEATHER THAT IS TRUTH...
AND IF FOUND WANTING, THROWN TO THE DEVOURER OF THE DEAD!

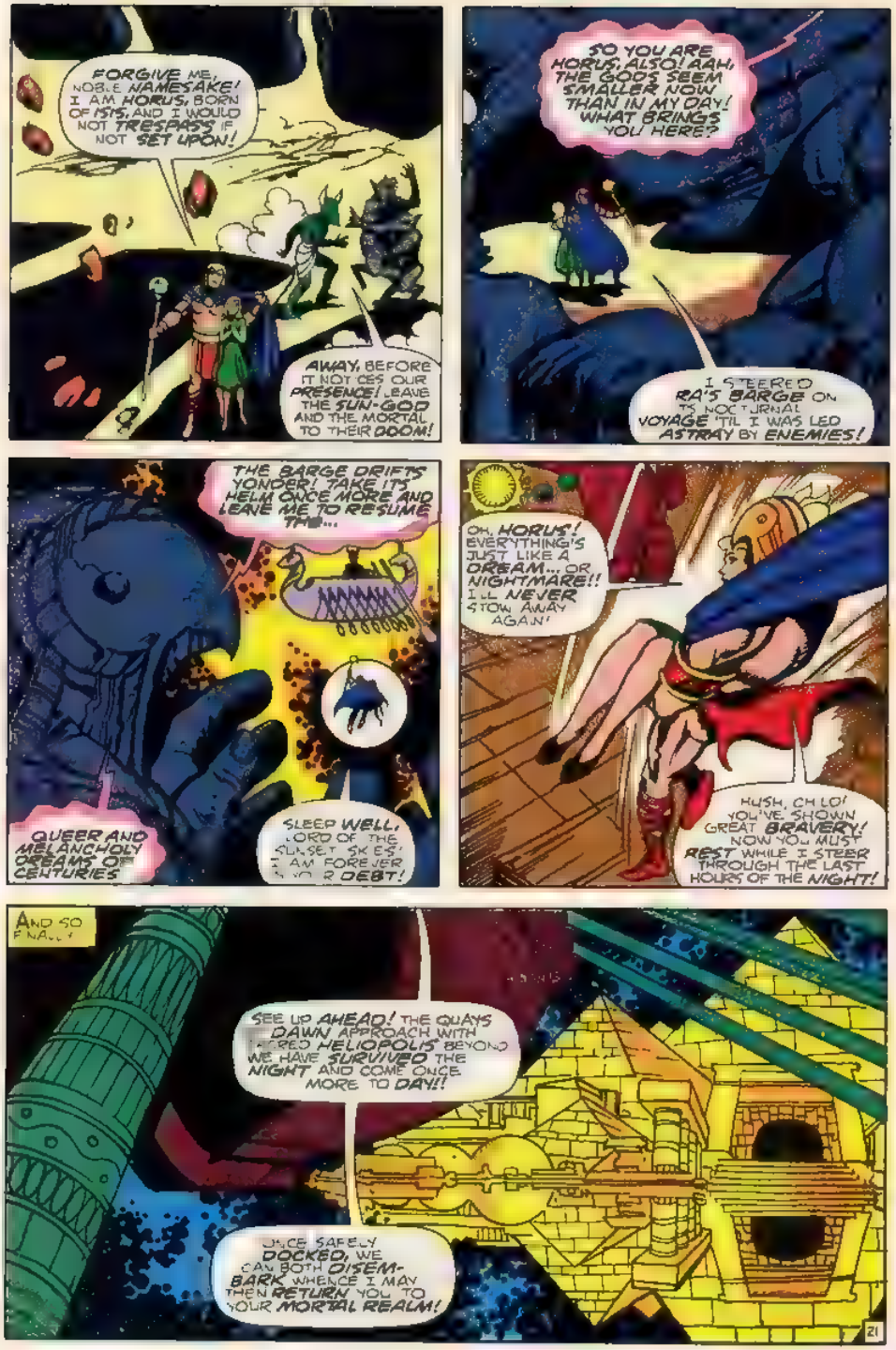

NEVER! NOT WHILE HORUS YET DRAWS BREATH!
WHOOK
HMRR RAAGH!!


GO AFTER THEM, YOU CRAVEN FOOLS, OR BY MY FORE-PAW I SHALL WEAR YOUR PELTS BEFORE THIS NIGHT'S OUT
THEIR FLIGHT IS FUTILE! THEY CANNOT GET FAR!

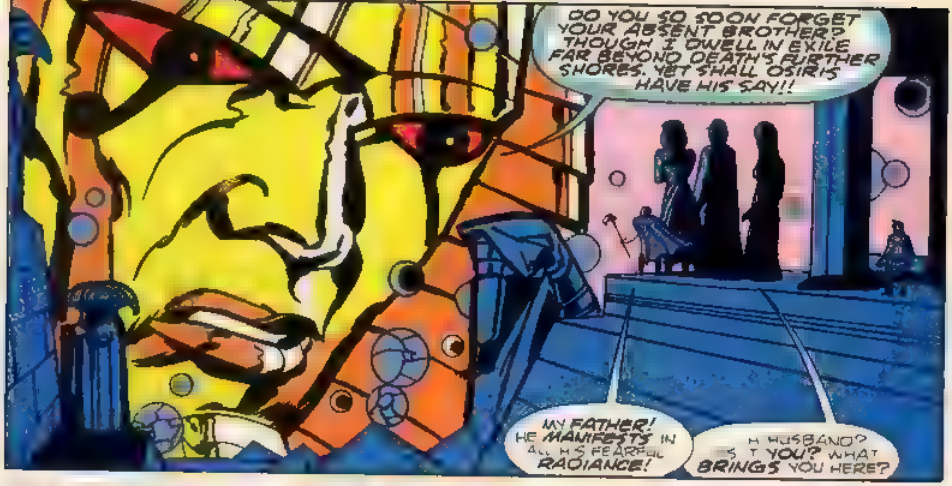

SEE! EVEN NOW THEY RUN TOWARDS NIGHT'S SEVENTH HOUR, WHERE EVEN SUCH AS I ARE HESITANT TO TREAD!
FETCH THEM TO ME! RUN THEM DOWN WHILE YET THEIR SPOOR IS AT ITS STRONGEST!
FETCH!!

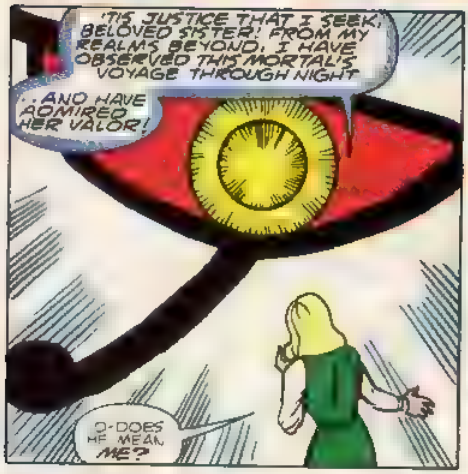
SOON, IN THE SEVENTH HOUR OF NIGHT...
I-I THINK WE LOST THEM B.B.! WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IT'S JUST SO CREEPY HOW THE WIND KEENS IN AMONGST THESE GIANT FIGURINES!!
THEY ARE NOT FIGURINES, PRESUMPTIOUS CHILD, BUT EIDOLONS: THE CRYPTIC, EARLIER MATRIX-MODELS OF THE GODS THAT SLEEP BENEATH THE SAND-DUNES OF INFINITY!!

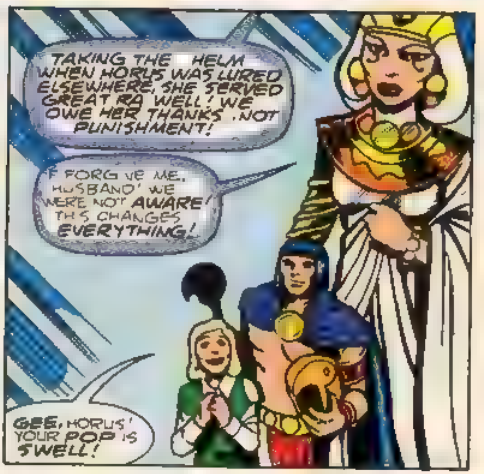
THEY ARE OUR PREDECESSORS! NONE SAVE DEATHLESS RA HIMSELF KNOWS MORE THAN WHISPERS OF THEIR ORIGINS, THEIR PURPOSE!
WE MUST TREAD SOFTLY HERE, LEST WE AWAKEN THEM
WELL SPOKEN, HAWK OF HEAVEN. AND IF FOOT-STEPS MIGHT AWAKEN THE EIDOLONS...
THEN FIGHTING WOULD BE FOLLY!
GIVE ME THE GIRL, SO THAT SHE MAY BE JUDGED, THEN GO IN PEACE.
ANUBIS! HE FOUND US!
GOORR RAAAAA AGHHH!
FEAR NOT, GIRL. THOUGH VERY MOUNTAINS MOVE, THE SON OF SLAIN OSIRIS SHALL NOT BEND THE KNEE BEFORE THIS TOMB-HOUND AND HIS MINIONS!!
NO! BY MY THRONE OF SKULLS, IT CANNOT BE!
WAIT! NH WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE GROUND IS SHAKING JUST LIKE THERE'S AN EARTHQUAKE!!
WHO DARES DISTURB THE AEON-LONG SLEEP OF HERAKHTY, HE WHO IS ALSO CALLED HORUS-OF-THE-HORIZON??
WE HAVE AWOKE THE ELDER GODS!

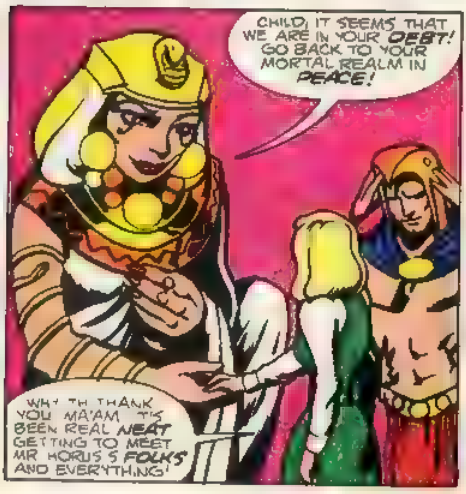

FORGIVE ME, NOBLE NAMESAKE! I AM HORUS, BORN OF ISIS, AND I WOULD NOT TRESPASS IF NOT SET UPON!
AWAY, BEFORE IT NOT CES OUR PRESENCE! LEAVE THE SUN-GOD AND THE MORTAL TO THEIR DOOM!
SO YOU ARE HORUS, ALSO! AAH, THE GODS SEEM SMALLER NOW THAN IN MY DAY! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
I STEERED RA'S BARGE ON ITS NOCTURNAL VOYAGE 'TIL I WAS LED ASTRAY BY ENEMIES!
THE BARGE DRIFTS YONDER! TAKE ITS HELM ONCE MORE AND LEAVE ME TO RESUME THE...
QUEER AND MELANCHOLY DREAMS OF CENTURIES
SLEEP WELL, LORD OF THE SUNSET SKIES! I AM FOREVER [illegible] DEBT!
OH, HORUS! EVERYTHING'S JUST LIKE A DREAM... OR NIGHTMARE!! I'LL NEVER STOW AWAY AGAIN!
HUSH, CHLOE! YOU'VE SHOWN GREAT BRAVERY! NOW YOU MUST REST WHILE I STEER THROUGH THE LAST HOURS OF THE NIGHT!
AND SO FINALLY
SEE UP AHEAD! THE QUAYS DAWN APPROACH WITH [illegible]RED HELIOPOLIS BEYOND WE HAVE SURVIVED THE NIGHT AND COME ONCE MORE TO DAY!!
ONCE SAFELY DOCKED, WE CAN BOTH DISEMBARK WHENCE I MAY THEN RETURN YOU TO YOUR MORTAL REALM!

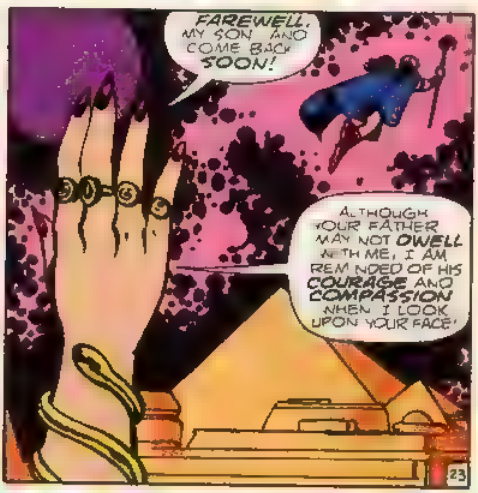
BLIT.
HAIL NOBLE THOTH! I HAVE A GRAND ADVENTURE TO RECOUNT BUT COME WHY DO YOU SEEM SO GRAVE?
I HAVE BEEN SENT TO GREET YOU WITH DIRE TIDINGS, HAWK OF HEAVEN
THE GREAT ENNEAD HAS BEEN CONVENED! THE NINE GODS WHO COMPRISE THE COUNCIL HAVE DEMANDED THAT YOU COME TO THEM
IT'S THE MORTAL! SHE IS TO BE TRIED FOR SACRILEGE!
NO!
WE MUST OBEY THE SUMMONS, CHILD. THE ENNEAD'S RULE IS ABSOLUTE IN HELIOPOLIS!
HORUS YOU HAVE COME IS THIS THE MORTAL YOU ALLOWED TO DESECRATE THE SACRED BARGE OF RA WITH HER UNWORTHY FOOTSTEPS?
AYE HORUS SET REVEALED THIS INFAMY TO US BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE UNEARTHLY REALM
NO DOUBT TO SCHEME, WHILE I AM DELAYED HERE!
RA IS NOT AT SET! IT IS NOT HE WHO IS ON TRIAL!
YOUR MOTHER SPEAKS THE TRUTH, IMPETUOUS GRANDCHILD. NO MERE MORTAL MAY LOOK ON THE REALM OF GODS WITHOUT GRAVE PUNISHMENT!
CELESTIAL NUT, HAVE MERCY ON THIS CHILD! SHE KNEW NOT WHAT SHE DID!
THE QUEEN OF NIGHT HAS SPOKEN, HORUS IN DECREE THE GIRL SHOULD FIRST BE BLINDED, THEN MADE MAD, AS WRITTEN IN THE
HOLD! ENOUGH, I SAY!
22

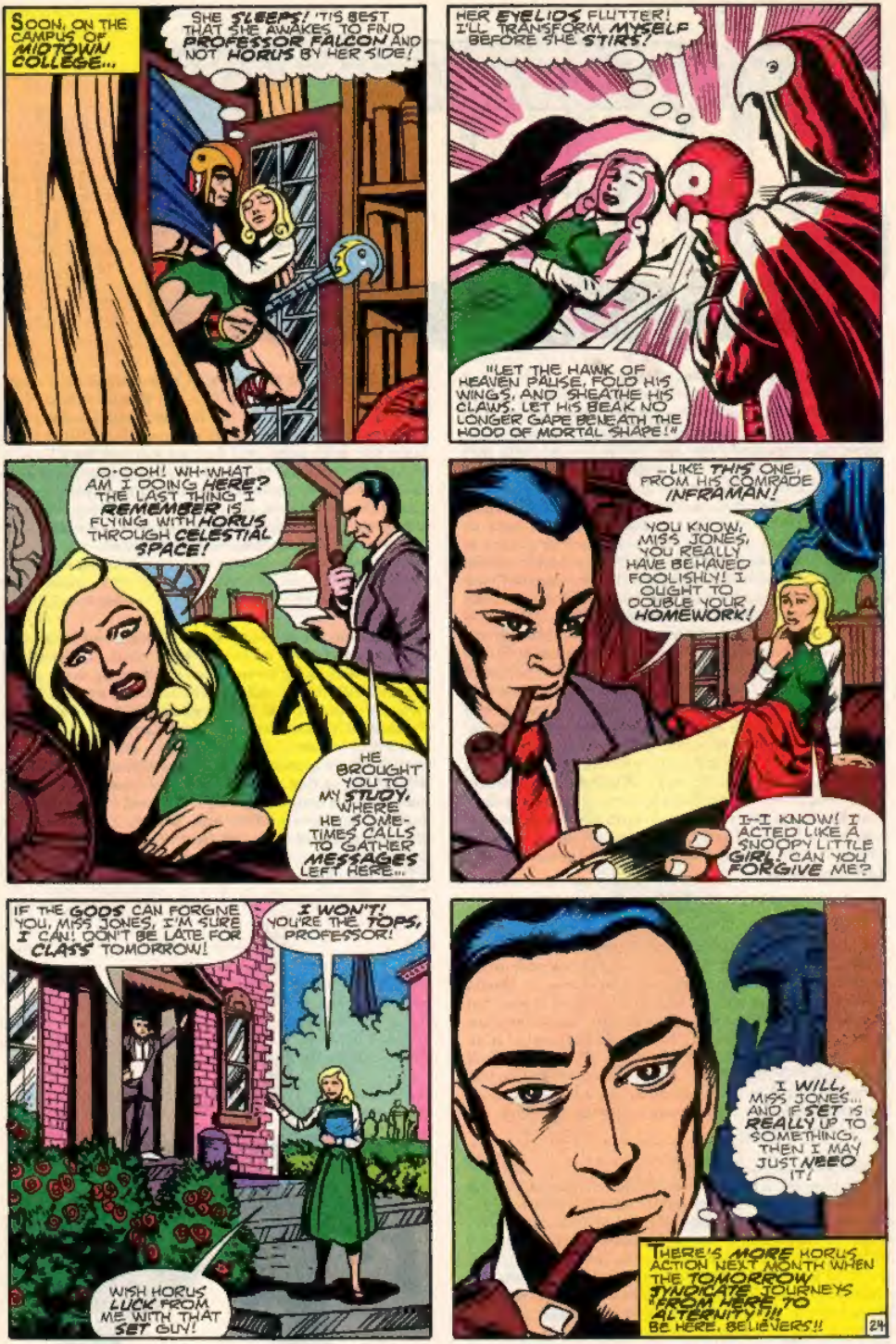

DO YOU SO SOON FORGET YOUR ABSENT BROTHER? THOUGH I DWELL IN EXILE FAR BEYOND DEATH'S FURTHER SHORES, YET SHALL OSIRIS HAVE HIS SAY!!
MY FATHER! HE MANIFESTS IN ALL HIS FEARFUL RADIANCE!
H HUSBAND? S T YOU? WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?


'TIS JUSTICE THAT I SEEK, BELOVED SISTER! FROM MY REALMS BEYOND, I HAVE OBSERVED THIS MORTAL'S VOYAGE THROUGH NIGHT
..AND HAVE ADMIRED HER VALOR!
O-DOES HE MEAN ME?

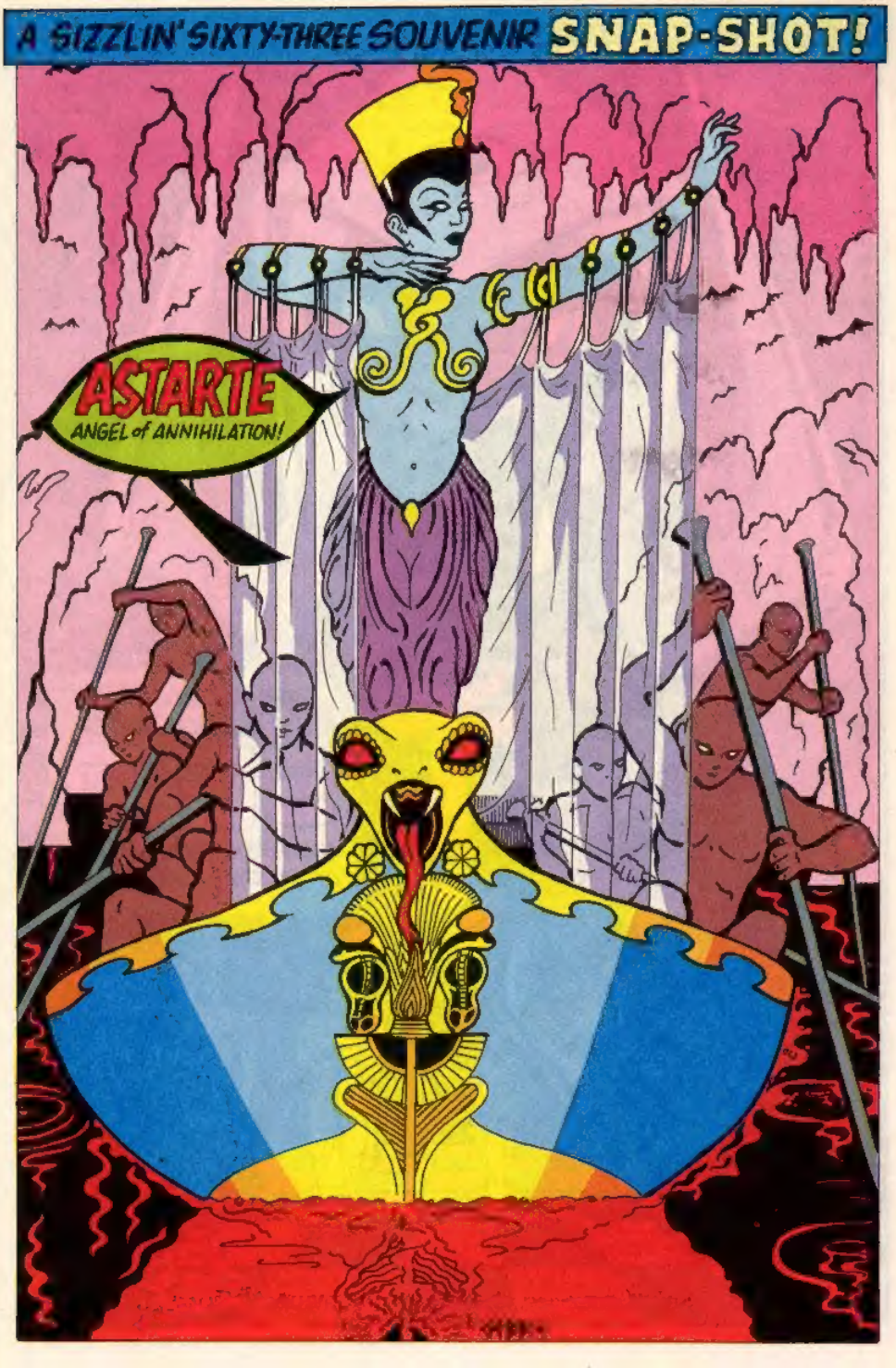

TAKING THE HELM WHEN HORUS WAS LURED ELSEWHERE, SHE SERVED GREAT RA WELL! WE OWE HER THANKS, NOT PUNISHMENT!
F FORGIVE ME, HUSBAND! WE WERE NOT AWARE! TH S CHANGES EVERYTHING!
GEE, HORUS! YOUR POP IS SWELL!


CHILD, IT SEEMS THAT WE ARE IN YOUR DEBT! GO BACK TO YOUR MORTAL REALM IN PEACE!
WHY TH THANK YOU MA'AM T'S BEEN REAL NEAT GETTING TO MEET MR HORUS S FOLKS AND EVERYTH.NG!


FAREWELL, MY SON AND COME BACK SOON!
ALTHOUGH YOUR FATHER MAY NOT DWELL WITH ME, I AM REMINDED OF HIS COURAGE AND COMPASSION WHEN I LOOK UPON YOUR FACE!


SOON, ON THE CAMPUS OF MIDTOWN COLLEGE...
SHE SLEEPS! 'TIS BEST THAT SHE AWAKES TO FIND PROFESSOR FALCON AND NOT HORUS BY HER SIDE!
HER EYELIDS FLUTTER! I'LL TRANSFORM MYSELF BEFORE SHE STIRS!
"LET THE HAWK OF HEAVEN PAUSE, FOLD HIS WINGS, AND SHEATHE HIS CLAWS. LET HIS BEAK NO LONGER GAPE BENEATH THE HOOD OF MORTAL SHAPE!"
O-OOH! WH-WHAT AM I DOING HERE? THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS FLYING WITH HORUS THROUGH CELESTIAL SPACE!
HE BROUGHT YOU TO MY STUDY, WHERE HE SOMETIMES CALLS TO GATHER MESSAGES LEFT HERE...
-LIKE THIS ONE, FROM HIS COMRADE INFRAMAN!
YOU KNOW, MISS JONES, YOU REALLY HAVE BEHAVED FOOLISHLY! I OUGHT TO DOUBLE YOUR HOMEWORK!
I-I KNOW! I ACTED LIKE A SNOOPY LITTLE GIRL! CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?
IF THE GODS CAN FORGIVE YOU, MISS JONES, I'M SURE I CAN! DON'T BE LATE FOR CLASS TOMORROW!
I WON'T! YOU'RE THE TOPS, PROFESSOR!
WISH HORUS LUCK FROM ME WITH THAT SET GUY!
I WILL, MISS JONES... AND IF SET IS REALLY UP TO SOMETHING, THEN I MAY JUST NEED IT!
THERE'S MORE HORUS ACTION NEXT MONTH WHEN THE TOMORROW SYNDICATE JOURNEYS "FROM HERE TO ALTERNITY!!!" BE HERE, BELIEVERS!!
24

A SIZZLIN' SIXTY-THREE SOUVENIR SNAP-SHOT!
HAIL TO THE HAWK-HELMED HERO OF HELIOPOLIS! IT'S
HORUS
LORD OF LIGHT


A SIZZLIN' SIXTY-THREE SOUVENIR SNAP-SHOT!
ASTARTE
ANGEL of ANNIHILATION!

A SIZZLIN' SIXTY-THREE SOUVENIR SNAP-SHOT!
SHUDDER AT THE SINISTER SCHEMES OF
SET!
SHAPE-SHIFTING SULTAN OF STORMS AND SQUALLS!